

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 10, line 11, as follows:

In some embodiments, the pattern may include, for example, a spiral or helical shape, or one or more or a series of cells, squares, circles, ovals, rectangles, triangles, and/or other shapes or arrangements where the parts of the outer portion 114 have been removed ~~removes~~, while adjacent parts of the outer portion 114 remain.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 15, line 3, as follows:

In some embodiments, the sleeve 140 may include different sections having different polymers with different flexibility characteristics to provide a transition in stiffness along the length of the sleeve 140.